

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleague and good friend, our conference chairman, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), in recognizing Kathryn Lehman as she leaves her work here after 15 years.

We are dramatically benefited by the people who help us do these jobs, and no one has been more involved in more places over those 15 years than Kathryn has, working, as has already been said, in the Speaker's office, in the Conference office, in the whip's office. During the 4 years that I was the chief deputy whip, it was never quite clear to me whether Kathryn was working for me or I was working for her, but I always knew that we were all working to get our job done.

She is leaving now to go to Holland. We recently lost a great former Member of the Congress, our good friend Tiller Fowler, and Tillie would be pleased, I think, that Kathryn is filling some of the gap that is left there by Tillie's passing.

I am sure that our conference chairman will miss Kathryn. I know that our conference will miss Kathryn on a daily basis. I really do deeply and truly know that we will miss Kathryn's wise counsel, her good judgment and, maybe most of all, her reliable sense of humor. When things are the toughest and the challenges are the greatest, Kathryn always had an understanding of how fortunate we all really were to be involved in that challenging moment, to be making those decisions on the House Floor, to be part of this great process in the greatest country in the world.

Kathryn, we will miss you.

#### IRAQ IS ANOTHER VIETNAM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the conflict in Vietnam, it is important to be reminded of the crisis in Iraq: 12,000 wounded soldiers, 1,500 dead, 143 Iraqis and others killed over this past weekend; no stated policy from this administration, and the continuous flow of injured and fallen soldiers coming home to loved ones.

Iraq is another Vietnam. Iraq deserves the attention of this Congress and of this administration. It is time now to address the fact that there were no weapons of mass destruction. Whether or not we are liberators, no one seems to care. This government is in conflict. The Shiite government is refusing to seek Sunnis. The insurgents will continue, the bloodshed will continue, the hostages will continue.

We must, we must have a solution to this terrible tragedy in Iraq. We are not creating freedom; we are creating terrorists.

#### REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR AMERICA

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, America is on a really great economic track right now. Since 2000, Congress and this great Nation both have had to contend with a recession, with terrorism, but we have dealt with this by enacting tax relief and working to decrease regulatory burdens on America's workers. What we are seeing is real growth.

Now, the first quarter of this year we have seen a 3.1 percent growth in the GDP. It is good and solid. To put it all in perspective, going back to October and December of 2004, the fourth quarter of last year, look at what we had going on here. Germany, 1.5 percent growth, Italy and Japan both at eight-tenths of one percent growth. During that time, America had 3.9 percent GDP growth. Do we know why? It is because we have fought to lower taxes and reduce burdensome regulation both together, while other nations have kept raising their taxes and imposing more regulation.

What does this show? It tells us that if we want more of something, we tax it less, we regulate it less.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO KATHRYN LEHMAN

(Mr. GOODLATTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to join the House Republican Conference chairman, the whip, and shortly the chief deputy whip and the vice chairman of our conference in congratulating Kathryn Lehman on an outstanding career here in the Congress and to wish her Godspeed as she leaves this great institution and goes out into the wide world to seek other challenges and opportunities.

Kathryn has served the House of Representatives longer than the vast majority of the Members who serve here today. She has an incisive legal mind, and I came to know that many years ago when I was first elected to serve here and had the privilege of being appointed to serve on the House Committee on the Judiciary, where Kathryn was serving as a counsel for the then senior member of the committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and shortly thereafter became chairman of the committee.

Kathryn was the staff director and chief counsel for the Subcommittee on the Constitution. She advised the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and subsequently Speaker Gingrich, with regard to the procedures that the House needed to follow with regard to the very somber process of impeachment of a President of the United States. Since then, she has gone on to

serve in our leadership. A number of Members who we can see here today recognize that she has not only the great sense of humor that has been recognized already, but a great ability to step back and see the big picture at a time when many of us get tied up in the heat of the moment. That is something that is a valuable, valuable asset for this Congress and this Republican Conference.

Kathryn, we thank you, and we wish you the very best.

#### FAREWELL TO KATHRYN LEHMAN

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise this evening to bid farewell to an individual that I have come to know over the last 4 years since I first started serving in this House. She is not only a friend, she is a neighbor. She is an individual that I look to as a colleague and counsel.

As has been mentioned before, Kathryn Lehman has been a critical asset to this institution over the length of her career here. She has worked for the majority leader when he was majority whip. That is where I came to know her, and it is then that I began to see the incredible addition she was to the leadership team of this House.

She has provided tremendous insight into not only the history of this institution, but also to the intricacies of the legislative process, and her ability to really grasp how to get things done in this town, and certainly in this building.

So it is with much sentiment, I think, that I say goodbye. I know it will not be a permanent goodbye. Kathryn is one who is a true believer, and I could tell that when I first met her, that she has the common sense and conservative values that are really what make this country great.

I guess we could claim her as an adopted Virginian. She lives in the legacy of those great public servants of the 18th century that founded this Nation and that left us such a legacy to contribute to our democracy, to stand up for the principles that we believe in.

So Kathryn, I want to thank you for all of your wise counsel. I will continue to seek that counsel. We will miss you here in the House, but we wish you all the best, and Godspeed.

#### KATHRYN LEHMAN: A BEHIND-THE-SCENES PROFESSIONAL

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, I went to a ribbon-cutting on a new road and the road had taken many, many years to build, yet all the politicians who participated in the ribbon-cutting were newly-elected. But in